

THE DISTRICT LINE By Bill Gold



*Letter
Carrier
Is Still
Winning*

Ordinarily, the heavy year-end mail for Children's Hospital has slackened off by this date. After running a week or so behind the letter carrier, I begin to catch up with him.

This year the pattern has been different—somewhat lighter before Jan. 1, considerably heavier after. My reports to you remain a full week behind, and in my struggle to get caught up, the letter carrier is still winning.

Let's get down to business. Six Camp Springs toddlers with a repertoire of one song, "Jingle Bells," went caroling on Christmas night and came home with \$10. Three youngsters in Springfield, Va., collected \$12. "Our office goofs" (no details were provided) accounted for \$12.48. The Army's Civilian Personnel Support Division chipped in \$16.25.

"A group of King's Manor kids" (McLean) collected \$18 and were distressed that their total was down 40 per cent from last year. The Child Improvement Agency's Trends and Highlights Class 53 slipped \$20 under my door. Four police officers working for the Administration in the D.C. Department of Finance and Revenue know what to do

almost as hush-hush as the Child Improvement Agency — A8SPC at the National Security Agency. Psychologists at CIA sent in \$27.

"The Tuesday Morning Koffee Klatch Bowling League in Laurel" responded to the need at Children's Hospital as coffee drinkers and bowlers usually do and sent me \$36.29.

"Thirty-two hardy souls" played bridge at Silver Spring Duplicate to raise \$48 for the hospital. Employees of Hechinger's credit and collection department didn't send each other \$58 worth of greeting cards this year.

At their annual Christmas "auction," staffers at the Lewisdale Elementary School raised \$64 for the children. No card exchange among the 10 members of the staff of the English studies division of Prince George's Community College netted \$85.

Arlington County firefighters moved us to the three-digit level by chipping in \$124.59. The staff of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education and Recreation sent me \$128 and a note that said: "This is the first year we have participated. We'll do better next year."

In their fifth year of not exchanging holiday cards among themselves, employees of the Bureau of Manpower Information Systems at the Civil Service Commission raised \$148.46. And once again the Chevy Chase Business & Professional Women's Club held a gift exchange in which all the gifts (this time \$155 worth) ended up at the hospital.

Employees of the Paul H. Werres Co. chipped in \$300—up 34 per cent from last year. And our best nonmedical shot in the arm for the day came from personnel in NASA's Lunar and Planetary Programs, where \$335 worth of cards were not exchanged.

about a built-in deficit and sent me \$159 toward wiping out the one at 13th and W.

Members of the staff of Aerospace Industries Association sent me a wad of checks that came to \$168. The fourth year of the no-cards plan in the Science & Technology Division of the Institute for Defense Analyses netted, after analysis by the abacus, a delightful \$242. The Consumer Credit Division at American Security and Trust sent me \$250 for the children. The Public Affairs Council of the National Federation of Federal Employees diverted another \$250 to the hospital by not sending small personal gifts to its friends on Capitol Hill.

If you're not in the military, fasten your seatbelt as I report that \$251 arrived from MILPERCEN, PERSINS D, HQDAMSD, Systems Branch—which translates into: Military Personnel Center, Personnel Systems Information Directorate, Headquarters, Department of the Army Military Systems Division, Officers System Branch. You can unbuckle now.

Employees of the National Labor Relations Board maintained good relations without exchanging \$263.25 worth of holiday cards. Baltimore and Rockville employees of the Paul H. Werres Co. chipped in \$300—up 34 per cent from last year. And our best nonmedical shot in the arm for the day came from personnel in NASA's Lunar and Planetary Programs, where \$335 worth of cards were not exchanged.

To summarize, 27 organizations contributed \$3,222.32 and 61 individuals added \$5,157.32. Having begun the day with \$70,135.64, the shoebox now holds \$75,292.96.